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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 135943
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:RWBAKER:SM X20857
APPROVED BY AF:RMMOOSE
NEA/IRN:MGREENE (DRAFT)
P:GMOOSE (DRAFT)
PM:DGO-
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

S E C R E T STATE 135943

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:MASS, SO, US

SUBJECT: MILITARY SALES TO SOMALIA

REF: A) TEHRAN 04986, B) STATE 130814
1.
YOU SHOULD CONFIRM TO THE SHAH THAT IT IS THE U.S. POSITION
THAT SOMALIA SHOULD REFRAIN FROM PROVIDING MILITARY SUPPORT
TO THE OGADENI INSURGENTS, MAKING THE FOLLOWING POINTS:
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A. THIS EXPECTATION IS IMPLICIT IN SOMALIA'S ASSURANCES TO
US THAT SOMALIA WILL NOT USE FORCE AGAINST ANY OTHER COUNTRY
AND THAT ARMS SOLD OR GIVEN TO SOMALIA (NOT JUST FROM THE
U.S.) WILL NOT BE USED AGAINST ANY OTHER COUNTRY;

B. THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT HAS EXPLICITLY ASSURED US THAT IT

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IS NOT PROVIDING MILITARY SUPPORT TO THE OGADENI INSURGENTS; THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT HAS FURTHER INSISTED THAT ITS OWN CURRENT MILITARY SUPPLY SITUATION WOULD PREVENT IT FROM ASSISTING THE INSURGENTS, AND HAS SAID THAT THE INSURGENTS ARE IN ANY EVENT SO WELL SUPPLIED FROM THEIR OWN STOCKS AND FROM RAIDS ON THE ETHIOPIANS THAT THEY DO NOT NEED EXTERNAL SUPPORT;
"

C. IN THE FACE OF THESE STATEMENTS, WE COULD ONLY REGARD

CONTINUED SOMALI MILITARY SUPPORT TO THE INSURGENTS AS EVIDENCE OF CONTINUED SOMALI PURSUIT OF THE POLICY OF ALTERATION OF BOUNDARIES BY FORCE WHICH LED TO THE OGADEN CONFLICT OF 1977-78;

D. CONTINUED SOMALI ASSISTANCE TO INSURGENT ACTIVITIES ALSO PROVIDES THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS WITH A FURTHER EXCUSE TO REMAIN IN ETHIOPIA, AND MAY PROVOKE THE VERY ACTIONS WHICH SIAD HAS SAID HE FEARS, NAMELY REPRISALS AGAINST INNOCENT PEOPLE IN THE OGADEN AND ATTACKS AGAINST THE TERRITORY OF THE SOMALI REPUBLIC ITSELF.

E. FINALLY, OUR OVERALL STRATEGY OF DETERRENCE TO SOVIET/CUBAN ADVANCES IN AFRICA, WHICH REQUIRES THE ACCEPTANCE OF OTHER AFRICAN STATES, WILL BE UNDERMINED IF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH SOMALIA IS PERCEIVED AS SUPPORTING AN AGGRESSOR
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STATE PURSUING IRREDENTIST AIMS CONTRARY TO THE AFRICAN PRINCIPLE OF THE INTEGRITY OF INHERITED BOUNDARIES.

F. WE HOPE THAT THE SHAH CAN ACCEPT THE LOGIC OF OUR POSITION, AND ON THIS BASIS WILL BE WILLING TO URGE SIAD TO REFRAIN FROM MILITARY SUPPORT TO THE INSURGENTS.

2. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE SHAH IS VERY LIKELY TO REGARD THIS CLARIFICATION OF U.S. POSITION AS FALLING IN THE QUOTE UNREALISTIC UNQUOTE CATEGORY PER REF A. HOWEVER, THE DISTINCTION WHICH THE SHAH SUGGESTS, I.E., NO REGULAR TROOPS BUT SOME NON-US ARMS, IS A FORMULA WHICH WE CANNOT, AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE OR POLITICS, ACCEPT. WE ARE, MOREOVER, CONFRONTED WITH THE FLAT CONTRADICTION BETWEEN WHAT SIAD TELLS US HE IS NOT DOING AND WHAT WE CONSIDER TO BE STRONG EVIDENCE OF WHAT HE IS DOING. IF SIAD DECLINES, FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF THIS CLARIFICATION, TO MAKE THE REQUESTED DEMARCHE, WE WOULD HOPE, AT A MINIMUM, THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO GAIN SOME UNDERSTANDING ON HIS PART OF OUR POSITION.

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